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page 593 hardly gives a correct impression of the sequence of events. There is an excellent index, while a full bibliography and a wealth of bibliographical notes greatly increase the value of the work for students.

HENRY B. GARDNER.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Guide to the Materials for American History in Roman and Other Italian Archives. By CARL RUSSELL FISH, Professor of American History, University of Wisconsin. (Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington. 1911. Pp. ix, 289.)

THIS work is published by the Carnegie Department of Historical Research as a preliminary chart of a region still largely unexplored. Under limitations of time, but with a wide field to cover, we consider that Professor Fish has produced a work very satisfactory and decidedly useful. The lines of American history in Roman and other Italian archives are here well traced. The general introduction upon the papal administration (pp. 1-14) merits the attention of cultured persons in general, besides professional historians; and his particular introductions to different depositories are sufficiently minute to be individual as well as instructive. We might mention as an instance of useful information to be gathered there the section on Nunciatures (pp. 53-57).

With perfectly correct judgment, the entries of documents in the numerous series are made without adding any appreciation proper to the historian. So we shall state in brief what results the historian may expect from the use of the matter here sketched. In the first place, it is clear that for any writer on Catholic affairs in America, whether North, Central, or South, this matter is indispensable. If one does not study in the archives for himself, he must send over for copies, as Dr. J. G. Shea did; though it requires very little experience to see that it is one thing to have a document apart and separate, but quite another thing to see it in its environment. A solitary document may be as misleading as it is lonely, since it can lose as much by detachment as an historian does by attachment. Irrespective of all that critical apparatus implies, there is a native environment about a document in its own habitat, among other papers which, even if not connected with it, respire in the archives the atmosphere of the time, and envelop the student in it. Though lists which tabulate documents cannot satisfy this requirement, still we imagine they will conduce in some way to this effect upon the mind.

In the next place we note that, in the movement of political affairs, an important element to determine is the motive or ethical power at work. When a nation like Spain is in action, the element of Catholic principle cannot be separated from the policy actuating the government, whether the latter be faithful to the principles of its religion or not.

How far Spain and France swerved from the line of ecclesiastical direction is slightly touched upon by the editor (pp. 59, 60, 72). But, as to the enunciation of such principles in many of the papers which are here catalogued, the historical student will find it, at least as clear, and certainly not less broad, than the statements of a more secular kind which may be seen in the merely political administration of a great and well-governed empire. It is obvious that, when these principles as they recur have been discerned by the historian, his mind will be able to move in one true current of events.

In the third place, the *Guide* before us furnishes very many elements of fact, as might be expected from the documents of Rome, whither all roads ran. But, quite incidentally, the book shows why great reserve is practised in the communication of documents; and we might even suspect that the same reason could lead to the deliberate destruction of them (p. 120, *ad* note 6). It is that disparaging reflections or charges, with nothing adequate to support them, may be found recorded to the prejudice of individuals or classes—furnishing another illustration of what we have just said about the lonely and misleading document. Again, in an incidental way, the book illustrates another point, how valuable folios disappear from the collections—showing the wear and tear, not to use a stronger word, that is going on in archives open to the public (*e. g.*, p. 47, no. 102, ff. 36–46).

Not a few Italian passages being reproduced in the *Guide*, we should have wished that, if they stand in the documents as they are here, the learned editor had either indicated in the usual way that so indeed they stand, or had subjoined the corrections for the faulty text. As instances, we mention p. 72, note 66; p. 118, l. 6; p. 122, l. 7; p. 183, no. 135; p. 234; p. 241. Among names, Beamans should be Peemans; Nundwiler should be Mundwiler.¹

THOMAS HUGHES, S.J.

Minutes of the Executive Council of the Province of New York. Administration of Francis Lovelace, 1668–1673. Volumes I. and II. Edited by VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS, State Historian. (Albany: published by the State of New York. 1910. Pp. 1–386; xii, 387–806.)

IN these volumes Mr. Paltsits has edited the council minutes of New York during the governorship of Francis Lovelace. To the text of the minutes he has contributed elaborate and helpful annotations, and in order to render intelligible the frequently meagre entries he has added a large number of collateral and illustrative documents filling two-thirds

¹ P. 157, note 56, on Propaganda document: "260. America; ff. 33–37, 'Descriptio Missionis Accadiae in Nova Gallia'." The photographic reproduction here referred to may be seen, according to our own private notes, in the Georgetown College Transcripts, under the date, 1656. We do not suppose that the document was ever published.